

## **Historic, Archive Document**

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female bear and cubs, is dangerous. An normally placid mother may be quickly provoked if her cubs are disturbed or if you come between the cubs and her.

If you see a bear, give it plenty of room. Do not make abrupt moves or noises that would startle the bear. Slowly detour, keeping upwind so it will get your scent and know you are there. If you can't detour, wait until the bear moves away from your route.



## SAFETY IN NUMBERS

Traveling alone in bear country is not recommended. Hike in groups and make enough noise so that bears aren't taken by surprise.

Bears usually avoid people. If you do not invade its territory, a bear generally will not attack.



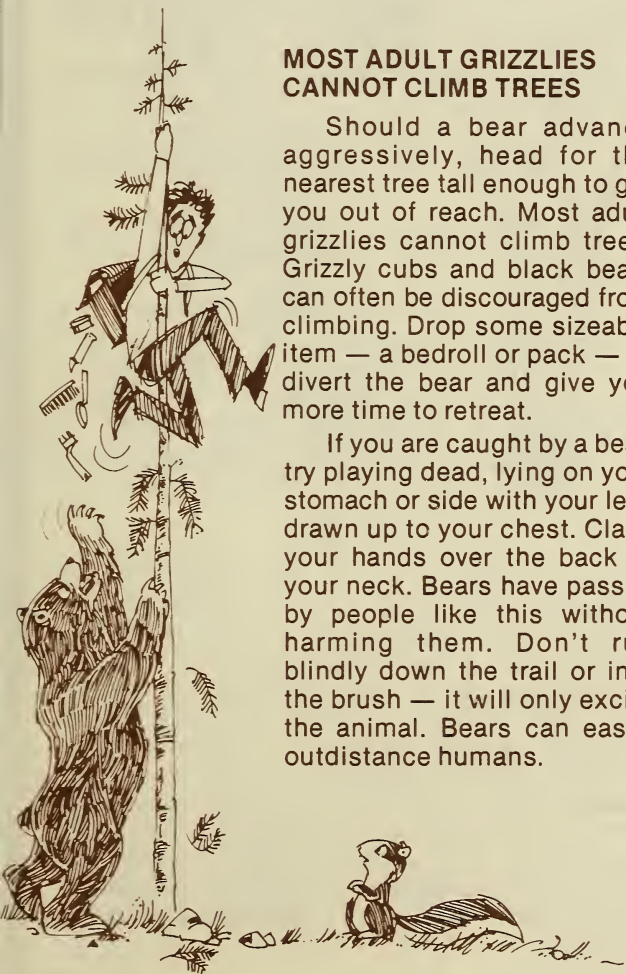
## BEARS AND DOGS DON'T MIX

Dogs are not allowed on trails in National Parks. In National Forests, it's a good idea to leave your dog at home when you go hiking or camping in bear country. A dog can easily disturb a bear and lead it back to you.

## MOST ADULT GRIZZLIES CANNOT CLIMB TREES

Should a bear advance aggressively, head for the nearest tree tall enough to get you out of reach. Most adult grizzlies cannot climb trees. Grizzly cubs and black bears can often be discouraged from climbing. Drop some sizeable item — a bedroll or pack — to divert the bear and give you more time to retreat.

If you are caught by a bear, try playing dead, lying on your stomach or side with your legs drawn up to your chest. Clasp your hands over the back of your neck. Bears have passed by people like this without harming them. Don't run blindly down the trail or into the brush — it will only excite the animal. Bears can easily outdistance humans.







## ODORS ATTRACT BEARS

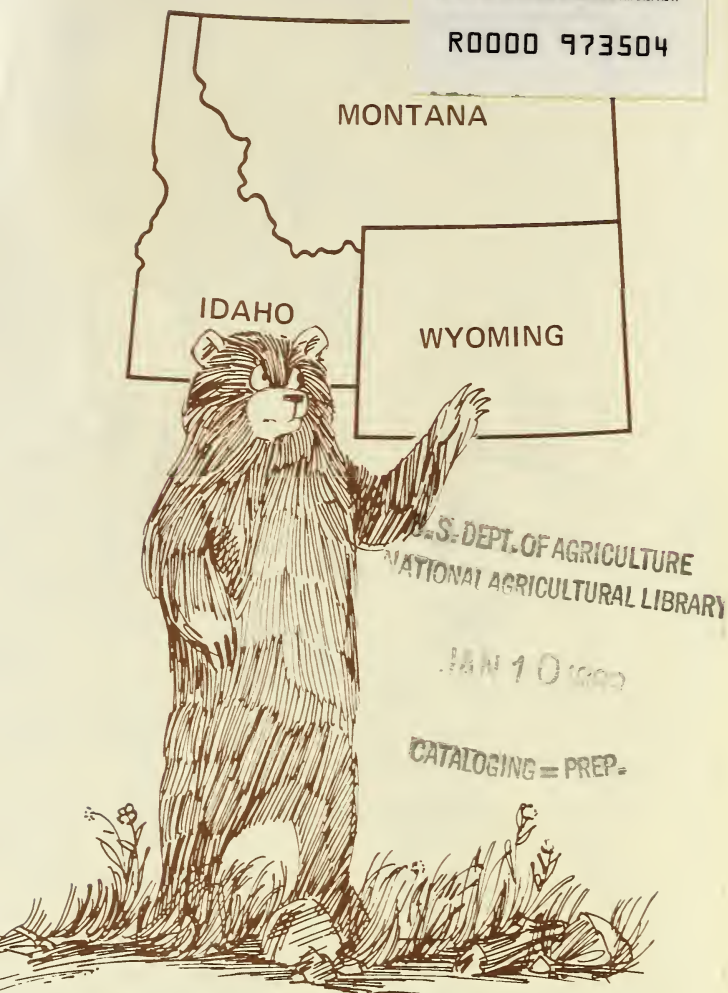
- Pack out all garbage. Make sure items such as empty food containers are clean and odor free.
- When camping, use freeze-dried food instead of fresh food.
- Store food in plastic bags out of reach of bears and well away from sleeping areas.
- Sleep some distance from your cooking area.
- Don't sleep in the same clothes you wore when cooking.
- Keep sleeping bags and personal gear clean and free of food odor.
- Cook with gasoline or liquid petroleum burners instead of making campfires.
- Don't use perfumes, deodorants, and other sweet smelling substances.
- Women should stay out of bear country during their menstrual period.
- Personal cleanliness is good insurance.
- Human sexual activity attracts bears.



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## LAND OF THE GRIZZLY

Grizzly bears live in Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks and surrounding National Forests of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. Black bears inhabit the same land.

Because all types of bears are unpredictable by nature, identification of species is not as important as being aware of potential danger.

To make your visit to bear country safe, you should:

- Be prepared for any situation.
- Be responsible for your behavior.
- Become familiar with the habits and tendencies of bears.





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## BLACK BEAR



## GRIZZLY BEAR

The strongest and most ferocious mammal in North America, the adult grizzly bear can weigh 1200 or more pounds and stand upright nearly 9 feet. The black bear stands only 5 to 6 feet high and is less massive.

The grizzly has high, humped shoulders; the black bear does not.

Faces vary widely in color and shape and there seems to be no typical profile for either species.

The grizzly has long, curved, exposed claws on his front feet; the black bear's claws are shorter.

The grizzly can be various colors, from almost black through the browns and creams, to practically snow white. Usually the grizzly's hairs are tipped with white, giving him a frosty or grizzled look, and his coat is never glossy.

The black bear may be black, brown, cinnamon, or even blond. Color is of little help in distinguishing between species.

After they waken from their winter sleep, bears normally move down to lower elevations along the rivers to feed on grasses and decaying animals that have died during the winter. In June and July, most grizzlies and black bears will move gradually to higher elevations where they will feed in open, park-like areas. In late July and August, bears will once more move down to lower elevations to feed on huckleberries and other fruits. In September and October, the high country is again the favored area. In late October, bears begin digging their dens, usually under a large tree or on a sidehill. By late November, most bears are sleeping for the winter.

